

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-06

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R 161108Z FEB 76
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3364
INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS LAGOS 01902

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ETEL, NI

SUBJECT: LARGE COMMUNICATIONS CONTRACT AWARDED US IN NIGERIA

1. AT 4 P.M. ON FEB. 12, TCOM, A COLUMBIA, MARYLAND, SUBSIDIARY OF WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC, SIGNED A 153 MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT WITH FMG FOR THE INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF A NATIONWIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING NETWORK. BASIC COMPONENTS OF THE SYSTEM ARE AEROSTATS, TETHERED AT ALTITUDES OF 10,000-15,000 FT. AND LOCATED IN FIVE LOCATIONS WITHIN NIGERIA.

2. EQUIPMENT AT THREE OF THE FIVE LOCATIONS SHOULD BE OPERATIONAL WITH 18 MONTHS. SIGHT SURVEY TEAMS ARE ALREADY IN ACTION. TCOM PERSONNEL WILL OPERATE THE SYSTEM FOR A MINIMUM OF FIVE YEARS AFTER INSTALLATION.

3. THE NETWORK WILL HAVE AN EXTENSIVE COMMUNICATIONS COVERAGE. IT IS DESIGNED TO HANDLE:

(A) SIX SIMULTANEOUS NATION-WIDE COLOR TELEVISION SYSTEMS (PAL);

(B) TWO FM STEREOPHONIC CHANNELS:

(C) A NATIONWIDE COMMUNITY TELEPHONE SYSTEM (E.G., GROUPS OF CENTRALLY LOCATED PAY PHONES IN INDIVIDUAL VILLAGES);

(D) DIRECT DIAL AUTOMATIC MOBILE TELEPHONES:

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(E) A NATIONWIDE PAGING SYSTEM:

(F) TELEX TRANSMISSION:

(G) DIGITAL DATA TRANSMISSION:

(H) LONG LINE TELEPHONE TRUNKING BETWEEN MAJOR CITIES:

(I) ROUTING OF TELEPHONE TRAFFIC TO AND FROM INTELSAT FOR
DIRECT DIAL WORLDWIDE TELEPHONE SERVICE:

4. THE PROJECT WAS ENDORSED BY LATE HEAD OF STATE MUHAMMED AND
HAS THE SUPPORT OF NEW HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO. SINCE ITS SIGNING,
THE CONTRACT AWARD HAS RECEIVED BROAD FAVORABLE COVERAGE
IN THE MEDIA.

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